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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/588,953	06/01/2007	Kenji Kobayashi	040894-7484	3932		
9629	7590	11/25/2009	EXAMINER			
MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP 1111 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW WASHINGTON, DC 20004				LAVINDER, JACK W		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
3677						
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE				
11/25/2009		PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/588,953	KOBAYASHI, KENJI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jack W. Lavinder	3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2009.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8 and 26 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-5 and 26 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

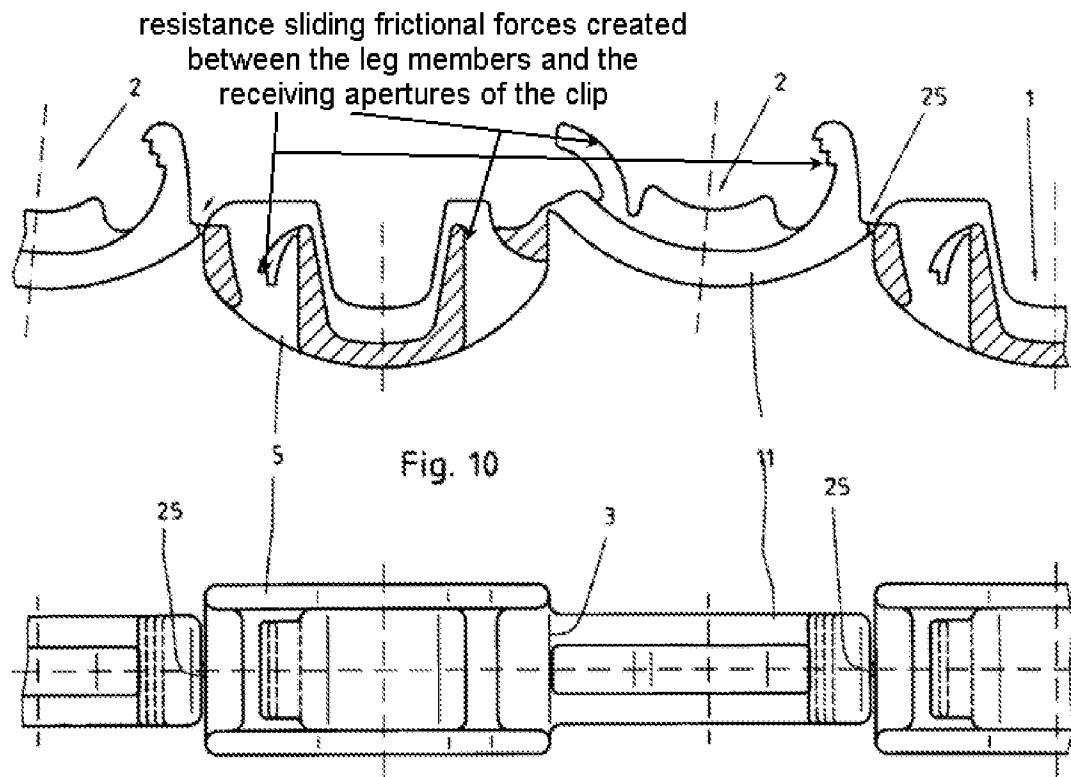
***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Niedecker, 5735022 . Niedecker discloses a plurality of binding pieces comprising a clip having a pair of leg portions and a receiving member having a pair of holes for pinching to bind a bag opening portion by pressing the pair of leg portions of the clip to the pair of holes of the receiving member. The claim requires “press-fitting” the pair of leg portions of the clip to the holes. The applicant's specification defines “press-fitting” on page 3, second paragraph as “in press-fitting, a resisting force (= friction coefficient x load per unit area x area) is operated.” Niedecker discloses a type of “press-fitting” clip, i.e., there is a resistance force between the sliding contact between the teeth of the leg member and the receiving member and the sliding contact between the other leg member and the side of the receiving opening.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

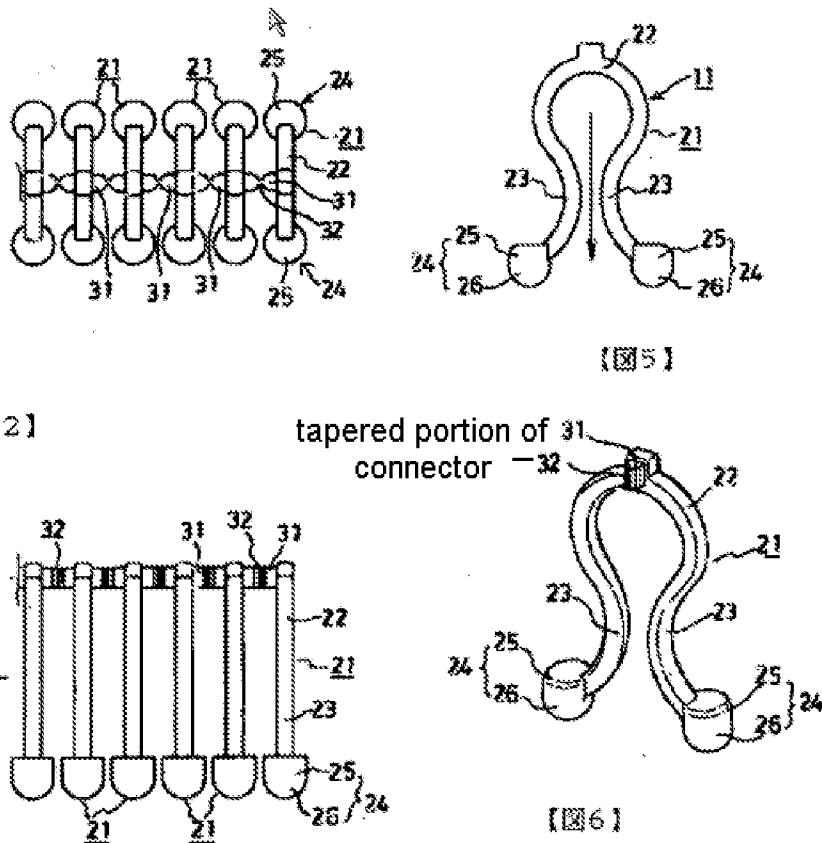
The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niedecker, 5735022 in view of Japanese reference, JP2002293364. Niedecker discloses a connector means (25) attaching each binding piece to the next binding piece. The claim requires that the connecting portion have a tapered shape, which is not shown

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clearly in Niedecker. The Japanese reference shows that it is old and well known to make the connector into a tapered shaped connector (32, figure 6) to facilitate the ease of separation at the smaller end of the connector. It would have been obvious to make Niedecker's connector into a tapered shape.



### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 6-8 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Madsen, 4878702, discloses a variety of different embodiments for connecting a bag clip to close the opening of a bag.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 10/7/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Niedecker fails to disclose a clip for pinching a bag opening by press-fitting the pair of leg portions of the clip to the pair of holes of the receiving member. The applicant's specification defines "press-fitting" on page 3, second paragraph as "in press-fitting, a resisting force (= friction coefficient x load per unit area x area) is operated."

Niedecker discloses a plurality of binding pieces comprising a clip having a pair of leg portions and a receiving member having a pair of holes for pinching to bind a bag opening portion by pressing the pair of leg portions of the clip to the pair of holes of the receiving member. Niedecker discloses a type of "press-fitting" clip, i.e., there is a resistance force between the sliding contact between the teeth of the leg member and the receiving member and the sliding contact between the other leg member and the side of the receiving opening. This sliding frictional force in Niedecker meets applicant's statement and definition of press-fitting and therefore discloses applicant's claimed invention.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jack W. Lavinder whose telephone number is 571-272-7119. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Friday, 9-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Victor Batson can be reached on 571-272-6987. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jack W Lavinder/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3677